

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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S E C R E T GENEVA 4731

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG

SUBJ: CSCE: FOLLOW-UP: NEUTRALS UNENTHUSIASTIC OVER DANISH REDRAFT

REF: A) GENEVA 4655, B) GENEVA 4232

1. SUMMARY: THE CSCE NEUTRALS, AS WELL AS ROMANIA, DO NOT ACCEPT DANISH FOLLOW-UP REDRAFT AS NEW EXCLUSIVE NEGOTIATING BASIS, BUT RECOGNIZE THE POLITICAL EFFORT IT REPRESENTS. THERE IS, NEVERTHELESS, NEW HOPE THAT NEW INFORMAL WORKING GROUP TO BE CHAIRED BY SWEDES, WILL BREAK THE FOLLOW-UP LOG-JAM, PARTICULARLY IF THE FRENCH NOW MAKE NEEDED CONCESSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. EC-NINE PRESENTATION OF REVISED DANISH TEXT TO SELECTED NEUTRALS, ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA ON JUNE 19

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REVEALED,AS WE HAD FEARED (REF B) THAT THE NINE HAD

OVER-ESTIMATED THE ATTRACTIONS WHICH THE RELATIVELY MODEST CONCESSIONS CONTAINED IN THE DANISH FOLLOW-UP REDRAFT WOULD HAVE FOR THIS GROUP.

3. THE ROMANIANS, YUGOSLAVS, SPANIARDS AND SWISS ALL RECOGNIZED IN VARYING DEGREES, THE POLITICAL EFFORT WHICH THE NEW DANISH DRAFT REFLECTS. HOWEVER, THEY ALSO INSISTED THAT IT WAS INSUFFICIENT TO MEET THEIR NEEDS IN VARIOUS RESPECTS, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO CONTINUITY. AS ROMANIAN POINTED OUT SUCCINCTLY, THE REDRAFT STILL CONTAINS THE "GUILLOTINE CLAUSE WHICH COULD END FOLLOW-UP AFTER ONLY ONE MEET, THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BEING "THAT THE AXE CAN NOW FALL MORE PAINFULLY IN SEVERAL STAGES". THE SWISS WENT EVEN FURTHER AND WONDERED WHY THE INE HAD EVEN BOTHERED TO PRESENT SUCH "PIDDLING CHANGES". THE SITUATION WAS MADE WORSE BY THE UNEXPECTED AND UNHELPFUL CRITICISM OF KEY POINTS IN THE EC-NINE DRAFT MADE BY THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR, EVEN THOUGH THE PORTUGUESE HAD QUIETLY PARTICIPATED IN A NUMBER OF NATO CAUCUSES ON THIS SUBJECT. (COMMENT SEPTEL).

4. IN THE END, AFTER APPEALS AND EXTENSIVE EXPLANATIONS BY SEVERAL WESTERN DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING OURSELVES, THE NEUTRALS CONCEDED THAT THE DANISH REDRAFT MADE A CONTRIBUTION TO RESUMING ACTIVE FOLLOW-UP NEGOTIATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, THE ROMANIANS, YUGOSLAVS, SWISS AND SPANISH REPRESENTATIVES SPECIFICALLY REJECTED EC-NINE HOPES THAT THE REDRAFT COULD BE ADOPTED AS THE SOLE OR AT LEAST PRINCIPAL BASIS FOR FOLLOW-UP NEGOTIATIONS. ROMANISN SUMMED UP THE POINT AT THE END OF THE DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT "WE ARE STILL WORKING WITH FOUR TEXTS, AND THEY ARE FAR APART".

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE MEETING DID PRODUCE A GENERAL AND VERY HELPFUL NEW CONSENSUS TO ACCEPT THE WARSAW PACT'S SUGGESTION (GENEVA 4555), THAT THE FOLLOW-UP NEGOTIATIONS NOW BE RESUMED IN AN INFORMAL, OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP; AND ENCOURAGED SWEDISH AMABASSADOR TO CHAIR THIS NEW EFFORT. SWEDE TENTATIVELY ACCEPTED ON TWO CONDITIONS:

A) THAT PARTICIPANTS IN SUCH A NEW EFFORT GIVE HIM
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A FREE HAND TO DECIDE ON THE COMPROMISE TEXTS TO BE DISCUSSED, AND

B) THAT THE INFORMAL GROUP BE PREPARED TO MEET ON A DAILY BASIS TO FINISH THE FOLLOW-UP NEGOTIATION, IF POSSIBLE WITHIN A WEEK.

5. COMMENT: IF, AS WE EXPECT, THE INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ACCEDES TO SWEDISH CONDITIONS, THE RESULTANT

TACTICAL SITUATION WILL BE CONSIDERABLY CHANGED. MOST
IMPORTANTLY, HAVING FAILED TO GET NEUTRAL ACCEPTANCE
OF THEIR TEXT AS THE SOLE NEOGITIATING BASIS, WHILE
EVIDENTLY ACCEPTING THE CONDITIONS FOR SWEDISH CHAIRMANSHIP
OF THE NEW WORKING GROUP, THE EC-NINE AND
PARTICULARLY THE FRENCH, WILL HAVE LOST A DEGREE OF
CONTROL OVER THE NEXT STAGE OF THESE NEOGITATIONS. WE
HAVE CLEAR, BUT HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL INDICATIONS THAT
THE FRENCH DELEGATION HERE APPRECIATES THIS TURN OF
EVENTS AND BELIEVES THAT, IN VIEW OF THEIR OWN INCREASING
ISOLATION, THE TIME HAS COME TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON
CONTINUITY. (FRENCH DELEGATION SHOULD BE CAREFULLY
PROTECTED). IF THESE MOVES ARE MADE QUICKLY AND
EFFECTIVELY THEREMAY THEREFORE BE HOPE THAT THE FOLLOW-
UP PROBLEM CAN BE RESOLVED IN TIME TO AVOID MAJOR CONFRONTATION.
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